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(11) **EP 1 174 111 A2**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
23.01.2002 Bulletin 2002/04

(51) Int Cl.7: **A61K 7/06, A61K 7/50**

(21) Application number: **01116741.8**

(22) Date of filing: **19.07.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: **21.07.2000 JP 2000220666**

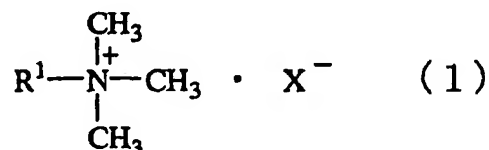
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(54) **Hair cosmetic composition**

(57) Provided is a hair cosmetic composition comprising the following components (A) and (B):

(A) a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following formula (1):



(B) a higher alcohol represented by the following formula (2):



[wherein, R¹ and R² each independently represents a C₁₂₋₂₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon group and X⁻ means an anion, with the proviso that the components (A) and (B) may have a distribution in the number of carbon atoms of R¹ and R², respectively and R¹ of the compound showing the maximum content in the component (A) and R² of the compound showing the maximum content in the component (B) are the same in the number of carbon atoms and the respective contents of the maximum-content-showing compounds in the components (A) and (B) fall within a range of 70 to 100 wt.%].

The hair cosmetic composition according to the present invention is capable of imparting smoothness to the hair during the period from its application to the hair until rinsing to washing it off and also imparting soft and moisturized finish to the hair.

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Description**Technical Field**

5 [0001] The present invention relates to a hair cosmetic composition which is excellent in smoothness and flexibility during the period from its application to the hair until washing-off (rinsing) and also excellent in softness and moisturized feeling after drying, particularly, excellent in the effect of retaining slick and smooth touch upon application even until rinsing.

10 **Background Art**

[0002] For improving the touch of hair after shampooing, hair cosmetic compositions such as rinse, conditioner and treatment have been used. These hair cosmetic compositions contain a cationic surfactant, but since an improvement in the touch such as flexibility is insufficient, a higher alcohol is used in combination.

15 [0003] This higher alcohol imparts the hair with flexibility and oil feel, thereby attaining improvement in the touch. High melting point of it however makes it difficult to prepare a hair cosmetic composition and in addition, a hair cosmetic composition prepared using it has a problem in stability (Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-72628).

[0004] Many hair cosmetic compositions contain a silicone derivative to impart the dried hair with grease-free smoothness, but they are accompanied with the problem that owing to the incorporation of the silicone derivative, friction resistance occurs between hairs upon rinsing, preventing the compositions from imparting the hair with sufficient smoothness.

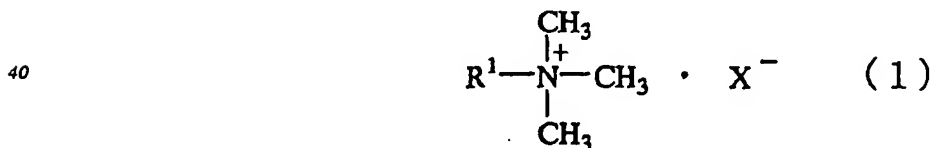
Disclosure of the Invention

25 [0005] An object of the present invention is to provide a hair cosmetic composition which has excellent stability and is capable of imparting the hair with oil feel and flexibility, particularly, with smoothness during the period from its application until washing-off (rinsing) even if a silicone derivative is added in a large amount.

[0006] The present inventors have found that a hair cosmetic composition which is capable of imparting the hair with smoothness during the period from its application to the hair till washing-off (rinsing) and also imparting the hair with moisturized feeling and soft finish and has excellent stability is available by the combined use of a cationic surfactant and a high alcohol having a specific relation to each other.

[0007] In one aspect of the present invention, there is thus provided a hair cosmetic composition comprising the following components (A) and (B):

35 (A) a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following formula (1):



45 (B) a higher alcohol represented by the following formula (2):



50 [wherein, R¹ and R² each independently represents a C₁₂₋₂₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon group and X⁻ means an anion, with the proviso that the components (A) and (B) may have a distribution in the number of carbon atoms of R¹ and R², respectively; R¹ of the compound showing the maximum content in the component (A) and R² of the compound showing the maximum content in the component (B) are the same in the number of carbon atoms; and the respective contents of the maximum-content-showing compounds in the components (A) and (B) fall within a range of 70 to 100 wt.%].

55 [0008] In another aspect of the present invention, there is also provided a process for preparing the above-described

hair cosmetic composition, which comprises conducting emulsification at a temperature lower than the phase transition temperature of the hair cosmetic composition to be prepared but not lower than the melting point of the component (B).

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

[0009] In the formula (1) representing the component (A), R¹ of the quaternary ammonium salt has 12 to 28, preferably 16 to 24, especially 22 carbon atoms. Linear or branched alkyl groups or alkenyl groups, particularly linear alkyl groups are preferred. The distribution of the carbon atoms of R¹ is preferably narrow. The content of the major compound in the component (A) should range from 70 to 100 wt.% (which will hereinafter be described "%", simply), preferably 80 to 100%. Examples of the anion X⁻ include halide ions such as chloride ions and bromide ions, and organic anions such as methosulfate ions, ethosulfate ions, methophosphate ions, ethophosphate ions and methocarbonate ions. Among them, halide ions, particularly, chloride ions are preferred.

[0010] Preferred specific examples of the component (A) include cetyltrimethylammonium chloride, stearyltrimethylammonium chloride, arachyltrimethylammonium chloride and behenyltrimethylammonium chloride. From the viewpoints of slick feel upon application and smoothness upon rinsing, behenyltrimethylammonium chloride is preferred.

[0011] As the component (A), two or more of the above-described ones may be used in combination. Upon use in combination, the component (A) as a whole should satisfy the above-described condition. The component (A) is preferably incorporated in the hair cosmetic composition of the present invention in an amount of 0.01 to 20%, more preferably 0.1 to 10%, especially 0.3 to 5%.

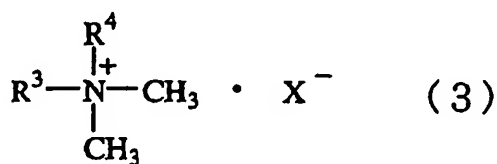
[0012] In the formula (2) representing the component (B), R² of the higher alcohol has 12 to 28 carbon atoms, preferably 16 to 24 carbon atoms, especially 22 carbon atoms. Linear or branched alkyl groups or alkenyl groups, especially linear alkyl groups are preferred. The distribution of the carbon atoms of R² is preferably narrow. Described specifically, the content of the major compound in the component (B) should fall within a range of 70 to 100%, preferably 80 to 100%.

[0013] Preferred specific examples of the component (B) include cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, arachyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, 2-octyl lauryl alcohol, 2-hexyldecyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol and carnaubyl alcohol (tetracosanol), with behenyl alcohol being especially preferred.

[0014] As the component (B), two or more of the above-described ones may be used in combination. Upon use in combination, the component (B) as a whole should satisfy the above-described condition. The component (B) is preferably incorporated in the hair cosmetic composition of the present invention in an amount of 0.1 to 50%, more preferably 0.5 to 20%, especially 1 to 10%.

[0015] In the present invention, R¹ and R² of the compounds exhibiting the maximum contents in the component (A) and (B), respectively must have the same number of carbon atoms. As R¹ and R², a linear alkyl group is preferred, because it brings about excellent effects in slick feel and flexibility during the period from application to the hair to washing-off (rinsing). The linear alkyl group having 16 to 24 carbon atoms, especially 22 carbon atoms is preferred.

[0016] It is preferred to add, to the hair cosmetic composition of the present invention, a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following formula (3):



[wherein, R³ and R⁴ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₂₈ alkyl group or a benzyl group with the proviso that they do not represent a hydrogen atom at the same time, and X⁻ represents an anion similar to that in the formula (1)], because glide and flexibility upon rinsing, smoothness after drying and handling use are improved.

[0017] In the formula (3), as the alkyl group of R³ or R⁴, C₈₋₂₄ alkyl groups are preferred.

[0018] As the component (C), two or more compounds may be used in combination. The component (C) is preferably added to the hair cosmetic composition of the present invention in an amount of 0.01 to 5%, especially 0.05 to 1%.

[0019] Preparation of the hair cosmetic composition of the present invention by emulsification at a temperature lower than its phase transition temperature but not lower than the melting point of the component (B) is preferred, because it brings about excellent effects in glide or flexibility during the period from its application to the hair until rinsing and a further improvement in stability. Upon emulsification, the phase transition temperature of a composition obtained by mixing only the components (A) and (B) in amounts to be incorporated in the hair cosmetic composition and then, emulsifying the mixture (the mixture of the compound(s) to be added in the largest amount when two or more of the compounds are used as the component (A) or(and) (B)) can be used as an approximate value of the above-described

phase transition temperature. When two or more higher alcohols are used as the component (B), the melting point of the major one is used as an approximate value of the above-described melting point of the component (B). Emulsification is effected by propeller stirring, homomixer stirring or static mixer mixing. For emulsification, mixing under stirring is preferably continued until crystals of the component (B) or such substance poor in dispersibility completely dissolves in the emulsion.

[0020] The hair cosmetic composition of the present invention is preferred to have a pH (at 25°C) of 2 to 10, especially 3 to 8 from the viewpoint of stability. For pH adjustment, an organic acid such as citric acid or lactic acid, or an inorganic acid may be used.

[0021] The hair cosmetic composition of the present invention can be prepared in any one of the forms of an aqueous solution, ethanol solution, emulsion, suspension, gel composition, liquid crystal composition, solid and aerosol. Among them, emulsion is most preferred. The hair cosmetic composition of the present invention can be used as a hair rinse, hair conditioner, hair treatment, hair pack, hair cream, conditioning mousse, hair mousse, hair spray, shampoo or leave-on treatment. Especially, use as a hair cosmetic composition such as hair rinse, hair conditioner or hair treatment which is washed off after use is suited.

Examples

Example 1

[0022] A hair cosmetic composition (hair conditioner) as shown in Table 1 was prepared.

<Preparation process>

[0023]

(1) Predetermined amounts of components other than purified water and methylparaben were charged in a 500 mL beaker to give a final preparation amount of 400 g and stirred at 250 rpm by a three-blade propeller under heating.

(2) In heated purified water, methylparaben was dissolved. The mixture obtained in (1) was then added to the resulting solution, followed by emulsification.

The emulsification temperature was set at a temperature lower than the gel phase transition temperature of a composition which had been obtained by emulsifying a mixture of predetermined amounts (shown in Table 1) of only the components (A) and (B) (when two or more compounds were incorporated as the component (A) or (B), a composition obtained by emulsifying the compound, which had been incorporated in the largest amount, in the corresponding amount) but not lower than the melting point of the component (B) (when two or more compounds were used as the component (B), that incorporated in the largest amount). With regards to the comparative product 3, the emulsifying temperature was determined based on the phase transition temperature of an aqueous solution containing all the compounds added as the components (A) and (B), and the melting point of all the compounds added as the component (B). The gel phase transition temperature and melting point as used herein were measured by a differential scanning calorimeter ("SSC 5200 Series, DSC120", trade name; product of Seiko Instruments, heating rate: 1 °C/min).

(3) The resulting emulsion was cooled to 45°C. A perfume was then added, followed by cooling to 40°C under stirring.

<Organoleptic Evaluation Test>

[0024] A panel of 10 experts conducted organoleptic evaluation while treating a hair bundle (20 g of the female hair subjected to permanent waving treatment once and cut into a length of 30 cm) by the following method.

[0025] After shampooing the hair bundle by a commercially available cleanse shampoo, they applied 2 g of a conditioner to the hair bundle and carried out "evaluation upon application". While rinsing the hair bundle under running water of 40°C at 4 L/min, they carried out "evaluation upon rinsing". After drying the hair with a towel and then by a drier, they carried out "evaluation after drying".

(Evaluation standards)

[0026] Based on the following ranking standards: 2 points for good, 1 point for a little good, 0 point for average, -1 point for a little inferior and -2 points for inferior, evaluation was conducted on each item and the results are indicated by an average of the scores of 10 experts.

- A: 1.5 or more on average
- B: not less than 1.0 but less than 1.5 on average
- C: not less than 0.0 but less than 1.0 on average
- D: less than 0.0 on average

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<Stability Test>

10 **[0027]** In a 100 mL glass bottle, 50 g of a hair cosmetic composition was charged, followed by hermetic sealing. The glass bottle was allowed to stand for 30 days in a thermostat set at each of -5°C, 5°C, 40°C and 50°C, in a thermostat subjected to cyclic temperature change once a day within -15 to 60°C, or at room temperature, whereby stability test was conducted.

[0028] The hair cosmetic composition which underwent no change in any of the above-described tests was evaluated as A, while the composition which caused decomposition or gelation in at least some of the tests was evaluated as B.

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Table 1

		Invention product										Comparative product					(%)
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
Component A	Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride	1.5	1.2	0.2	0.1	2.1	-	1.2	0.75	-	-	-	1.2	0.75	-	-	-
	Arachyl trimethylammonium chloride	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride	-	0.2	1.2	0.1	0.1	1.5	0.2	0.75	2.0	-	-	0.2	0.75	2.0	-	-
	Cetyltrimethylammonium chloride	-	0.1	0.1	1.3	-	-	0.1	-	-	1.0	-	0.1	-	-	-	1.0
	Carnaubyl alcohol	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Component B	Behenyl alcohol	5.0	4.25	0.5	0.2	8.7	5.0	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	2.5	-	-	-
	Arachyl alcohol	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stearyl alcohol	-	0.6	4	0.1	0.2	-	3.5	2.5	1.5	4.0	-	3.5	2.5	1.5	4.0	4.0
	Cetyl alcohol	-	0.15	0.5	4.5	-	-	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5	-	-	-	-
Other components	Propylene glycol	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Isopropyl palmitate	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	1.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	-
	Methyl polysiloxane (150000 mPa.S)	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	2.0	1.0	2.0	-	-	-
	Methylparaben	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Perfume	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
	Purified water	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
	Phase transition temperature (°C)	85	84	75	67	84	81	76	79	74	72	81	76	79	74	72	72
Heating temperature for emulsification upon preparation (°C)		75	75	65	60	75	75	65	75	65	65	75	65	75	65	65	65

Table 1 (continued)

		(%)									
		Invention product					Comparative product				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Effects		A	A	B	B	A	D	D	C	D	D
	Smoothness upon application	A	A	B	B	A	D	C	C	D	D
	Smoothness upon rinsing	A	A	A	A	A	D	C	C	C	C
	Softness after drying	A	A	A	A	A	D	C	C	D	D
Stability	Moisturized feeling after drying	A	A	B	B	A	D	C	C	D	D
		A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A

[0029] As the components in Table 1, the below-described ones were employed, which will be applied equally to the subsequent examples.

Component (maker)	Alkyl purity	Melting point
Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride (Kao)	>98%	-
Arachyltrimethylammonium chloride (Kao)	>95%	-
Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>97%	-
Cetyltrimethylammonium chloride (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>98%	-
Carnaubyl alcohol (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>98%	74°C
Behenyl alcohol (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>95%	72°C
Arachyl alcohol (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>96%	65°C
Stearyl alcohol (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>99%	59°C
Cetyl alcohol (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo)	>98%	50°C

[0030] It has been found that the hair cosmetic compositions (hair conditioners) of the present invention were excellent in smoothness upon application and rinsing, and softness and moisturized feeling after drying and were stable.

Example 2 Hair rinse

[0031]

	(%)
Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride	1.3
Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride	0.2
Behenyl alcohol	4.5
Cetyl alcohol	0.5
Propylene glycol	3.0
High polymerization polyethylene glycol (n=4500)	0.1
Isopropyl myristate	0.5
Hydroxyethyl cellulose	0.1
Isostearyl glyceryl ether	0.2
Camellia oil	0.3
Aqueous solution (50%) of malic acid	0.5
Methyl polysiloxane (5000 mPa.s)	1.0
Methylparaben	0.1
Perfume	0.3
Purified water	Balance
Total	100.0

Example 3 Hair conditioner

[0032]

	(%)
Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride	2.0
Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride	0.5
Dialkyldimethylammonium chloride*	0.5
Behenyl alcohol	6.5

*: a dialkyl quaternary ammonium salt derived from oxo alcohol (branching ratio: 20%) having 12 to 15 carbon atoms (effective ingredient: 55%)

(continued)

	(%)
Cetyl alcohol	1.5
Propylene glycol	1.0
Ethyl carbitol	1.0
Benzyloxyethanol	0.3
Dipentaerythritol fatty acid ester (hydroxystearic acid · stearic acid · rhodinic acid)	0.2
Octyldodecyl myristate	1.0
Hydroxyethyl cellulose	0.2
Olive oil	0.5
Amodimethicone emulsion ("SM8702C", trade name; product of Dow Corning Toray)	0.3
Dimethyl silicone emulsion ("BY22-019", trade name; product of Dow Corning Toray)	1.5
Aloe extract	0.05
Methylparaben	0.1
Perfume	0.3
Purified water	Balance
Total	100.0

Example 4 Hair conditioner

[0033]

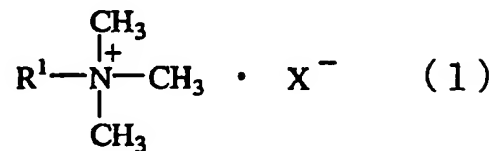
	(%)
Behenyltrimethylammonium chloride	3.36
Stearyltrimethylammonium chloride	0.5
Behenyl alcohol	10.0
1,3-Butylene glycol	2.0
Ethyl carbitol	0.5
Benzyl alcohol	0.3
Vaseline	0.5
Glyceryl trioctanoate	1.0
Hydroxyethyl cellulose	0.2
Meadow foam oil	0.5
Methyl polysiloxane (150000 mPa·s)	2.0
Poly(oxyethylene-oxypropylene)methyl polysiloxane copolymer ("KF352A", trade name; product of Shin-etsu Chemical)	0.5
Casein	0.1
Methylparaben	0.1
Perfume	0.2
Purified water	Balance
Total	100.0

[0034] It has been found that the hair cosmetic compositions obtained in Examples 2 to 4 imparted the hair with oil feel and flexibility and also with smooth touch during the period from application to the hair until the completion of rinsing.

Claims

1. A hair cosmetic composition comprising the following components (A) and (B):

(A) a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following formula (1):



(B) a higher alcohol represented by the following formula (2):



[wherein, R¹ and R² each independently represents a C₁₂₋₂₈ aliphatic hydrocarbon group and X⁻ means an anion, with the proviso that the components (A) and (B) may have a distribution in the number of carbon atoms of R¹ and R², respectively; R¹ of the compound showing the maximum content in the component (A) and R² of the compound showing the maximum content in the component (B) are the same in the number of carbon atoms; and the respective contents of the maximum-content-showing compounds in the components (A) and (B) fall within a range of 70 to 100 wt.%].

2. A hair cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the same number of carbon atoms is 22.
3. A process for preparing a hair cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which comprises carrying out emulsification at a temperature lower than the phase transition temperature of the hair cosmetic composition to be prepared but not lower than the melting point of the component (B).

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